

## **Clerk's Report – 23.05.2023 Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed or in hand:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. JPB Landscapes contracted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Costs to be held until that date. Contractor trialling New Way weedspray. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Weed clearance ongoing. Weed clearance along Station Hill ongoing. Investigating costs to renew information board at riverbank. Extra strimming at Water Lane and under the railway bridge at the request of residents.

**Station Hill garden:** A UK Shared Prosperity Community Gardens Fund grant has been received from ECC for £5,000. The grant to cover costs for a rainwater harvester and cabinet, guttering, various gardening tools, plants, soil, benches and illustrated noticeboard. Site for a bench still to be agreed as residents have asked for it not to be installed in front of their properties.

**BDC Street Clean Agreement 2023-24:** This has been duly signed between the parish council and BDC. BDC has agreed to maintain the grant as per the previous year. However this will be reviewed for 2024-25. Channel sweeping dates advertised. Funding from ECC for the Highway Ranger Service has been withdrawn.

**Station Hill boundary wall:** This has been reported to ECC for re-pointing – Ref 2793222. Officers to make a site visit to inspect the wall.

**Station Hill footpath:** ECC works order raised for the repair of the damage to the footpath from the tree roots. No scheduled date for the repair.

**Mount Bures footpath:** A contribution of £100 per year agreed to reimburse Mount Bures Parish Council for strimming and tidying the footpath.

**DaRT Transport:** A meeting being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 1pm at Sudbury Town Hall to promote the DaRT 3 currently operated by Essex and Suffolk Dart and Arrow Taxis. ECC Transport Officer to attend and Cllr Welch to attend on behalf of the parish council.

**Items reported on Highways reporting tool:** Damaged sign at junction of Pebmarsh Road and Fishpits – Ref 2762026 – ECC following up. Kerb opposite New Cut reported – Ref 2770305 – ECC to monitor. Street light No.11 The Paddocks not working – reported. 2 no. streetlights in Parsonage Grove – light heads changed to new eco-friendly/ directional lighting. Blocked drain at Colne Road – Ref 282390. Road lining, dropped lay by edge and badger bank at Colne Road layby – Ref 2826399. Drainage issues at Colchester Road – Ref 2696680 – completed. Removal of temporary road signs ordered – Ref 2837112 & 2837117.

**Roadbridge:** SCC has installed protection barriers across the damaged railings temporarily until a works order to close the road can be put in place to do the repairs. Painting and refurbishment of the bridge structure scheduled for next summer.

**Gritting programme:** The Clerk has submitted a request for Colne Road to be included in the ECC Highways gritting programme for 2023/24.

**Telephone box re-paint:** Scheduled for end of June.

**Millennium footpath padlocked gates:** Following a resident's own decision to padlock the two gates which lead onto the private field from the Millennium footpath, these padlocks have now been removed following discussions with the landowner.

**Retiring Councillors:** Letters of thanks forwarded to Cllrs Monk, Ellis and Raymond for their work as parish councillors over the past 4 years.

**CIF318 End of Year Report:** End of year report to ECC for the grant received towards replacing the climbing frame and trampoline completed by Cllr Welch. A further Grant Final end report to be completed and forwarded to ECC.

**Penlan telephone mast:** Clerk and Tree Warden monitoring the implications of the proposed new telephone mast at Penlan. Removal of trees may be required to install the mast and therefore a planning application may be required by Cellnex.

**Community 360 Road Show:** The road show has been booked to visit the village during the Loneliness and Social Isolation Awareness Week June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

**EALC/NALC affiliation:** The parish council is affiliated with EALC/NALC for 2023/24. This includes access to Health Assured for Clerks, an employee assistance programme.

**Training:** The training record has been updated and can be found on the parish council website. The EALC training calendar 2023 received. Any questions relating to the law, process or procedure of local councils should be forwarded by the Clerk to EALC – [legal@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk)

**BDC Supporting Communities meetings:** Clerk has been attending these virtual meetings with other parish clerks and BDC Officers during the past year. Varying topics covered and the meetings allow Clerks to maintain good contact with Officers.

**Recycling sacks:** The Clerk holds a stock of recycling sacks enabling local residents to collect a single roll of recycling sacks if they run out before the BDC annual delivery to all residents. Clerk has advertised and residents have welcomed the initiative.

**Vulnerable Persons:** The Clerk has signed up with Streetlink which monitors the homeless across the district. BDC Handyman Service for elderly and vulnerable owner occupiers and private residents - details available from the Clerk.

**NHW:** The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. Thefts from the Lamarsh Hill allotments has been reported to Essex Police - bench, fork and spades plus fencing stakes.

**Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated, advertised and details held on file:** Essex Highways launch of its 2023/24 programme to upgrade the condition of many roads across the county.

Details of the LEGO Education kit project being launched in libraries across Essex – visit - [libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/lego-in-libraries](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/lego-in-libraries).

Details of DigiGo, a shared minibus service which offers on demand and pre-bookable travel with no fixed route or timetable. DigiGo has agreed to extend its participation in the Government's Bus Fare Cap (BFCG) for a further 3 months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The single ticket will remain capped at £2.

**The Clerk is in receipt of the following and all circulated and held on file:**

Notification from National Grid regarding its first stage application to the Planning Inspectorate (pre-application) to establish whether it meets the required standards to continue through the infrastructure planning process.

Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on division boundaries for ECC.

Finchingfield & Wethersfield NHP Consultation on Area Designation Application.

Information from the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex regarding Coronation commemorative plaques available to purchase for £199.

Mrs Jenny Wright  
Clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council